

## Dress Right, Dress

Spangdahlem Supplement to AFI 36-2903, added to Table 2.5, item 19

To present the proper military image, summer and winter weight battle dress uniforms and accessories will not be mixed and matched.

(Courtesy of the Spangdahlem AB First Sergeants Council).



## News Briefs

### Road conditions

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron has an automated information telephone line for Team Eifel members to use to get the latest information on current road and force protection conditions. Call 452-COPS (452-2677) for details.

### Post office hours

From now until Jan. 7, the parcel pick-up window is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The holiday finance window is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is only for MPS mail out and stamp purchases (no debit or credit cards accepted).

### Emergency phone calls

The Bitburg hospital telephone switch is being replaced Dec. 11-12 from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m., and phone access to the emergency room and family care center will not be available when using the standard published numbers. For emergencies, call the fire department at 06565-61117. For routine calls to the emergency room, call 06561-8492. To reach the family care center, call 06561-12363.

### MDG training day

The 52nd Medical Group at Spangdahlem AB and the Bitburg Annex will close for training Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those in need of urgent care should go to the Bitburg Annex hospital emergency room for care.

### Post office volunteers

The 52nd Communications Squadron post office needs volunteers to assist with a current manning shortage, especially during the pending holiday rush. People interested can call Master Sgt. Henry Gonzalez, Tech. Sgt. Ernest Bracey or Angine Barber at 452-7182/7195.

### Base glow

The wing energy manager reminds all Team Eifel Sabers to turn off all exterior and interior lights after duty hours or when not in use. This practice is to conserve energy and reduce "base glow," as well as assist in base force protection. Facility managers must ensure this policy is strictly enforced. For details, call Master Sgt. Rob Thompson at 452-6989.

### Job fair

The 52nd Services Squadron staff invites people to their job fair Monday, Wednesday and Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the new Club Eifel complex, building 500. Tour the new facility, meet the new club manager and hear about all the new jobs and programs. Come and apply for more than 30 available positions. For details, call the nonappropriated funds human resources office at 452-6397.

## Hot stuff

Learn more about the 'toughest two minutes in sports ...'

Read "Sparks fly for Spang firefighters in Las Vegas at World challenge XIII," on Page 8



# Eifel Times

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Janis Wood

Airman 1st Class Bernard Price, 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron war readiness apprentice, wears his desert camouflage uniform and passes out Kevlar helmets and deployment gear to the more than 100 children who attended the Combat Care Junior Personnel Deployment Facility line here Nov. 20. The Junior PDF line was created so children can experience the process parents undergo when they are tasked for deployment.

## Combat Care gives children insight to deployment process

By Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Picture more than 100 children carrying around deployment bags; some wearing camouflage face paint; and all tightly clutching their dog tags.

This was the scene at the Combat Care Junior Personnel Deployment Facility line that took place here Nov. 20 for children of deployed Airmen. The Junior PDF line was created for the children to better understand the process their parent undergoes when they are tasked to deploy.

"Since this event was geared toward the children of the deployed, we kept it 'kid friendly,'" said Tech. Sgt. Ryan Helfenstein, 52nd Mission Support Squadron family readiness noncommissioned officer. "We didn't want to show or explain anything to the children that would scare them or make them worry about their deployed parent."

The morning started out with the families arriving at the 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron, building 103, to pick up an identification card, ID holder and dog tags with their name on them.

Creating dog tags became an overwhelming task for two 52nd MSS Airmen during the Junior PDF line.

"The machine we were going to use to make the dog tags was broken, so Airman [Gladys] Robinson and I began punching the tags by hand," said Airman 1st Class Aleasha Mooring, 52nd MSS decorations monitor. "The whole thing was really spontaneous once we heard the children were not going to get their dog tags because the machine was broken."

After receiving their dog tags, the children were briefed by their unit deployment manager regarding their responsibilities at the deployed location; witnessed the security forces troops break down and reassemble an M-16 rifle, observed the patrol dogs as they demonstrated detecting explosives; and saw what went into a deployment bag.

Then they had a surprise visit from Sparky, the Fire Prevention Dog; learned the importance of having up-to-date immunizations; received a briefing from the chaplain; went through the processing line; learned how an explosive ordinance device robot works; and sampled some meals ready-to-eat.

"The Junior PDF line gave both the child and the parent a chance to physically see the steps their loved ones have to go



Janis Wood

Jacinta Shelton, wife of Tech. Sgt. Glenn Shelton, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, watches Airman 1st Class Aleasha Mooring, 52nd Mission Support Squadron, and Airman Gladys Robinson, 52nd MSS, hand-punch dog tags for more than 100 children at the Junior PDF line here, while an eager Travis Henry, son of Senior Airman Richard Henry, 52nd Operations Support Squadron, helps out.

through when they deploy," Sergeant Helfenstein said.

It is what the U.S. Air Forces in Europe's combat programs are all about, he said. Combat Care is about taking care of each other and holding events gives the working organizations and the spouses of deployed members the opportunity to visit each other.

"Everyone understands they are in the same situation, and it helps them understand they are not going through this by themselves," Sergeant Helfenstein said.

Understanding the process can ease a child's anxiety and fear.

"It [the Junior PDF] was pretty neat. I enjoyed learning what my mom went through when she deployed a few months ago," said Lexxy Friend, 14, daughter of Master Sgt. Lisa Friend, 52nd Fighter Wing administration. "Programs like this give children confidence in knowing their parents are safe and prepared."



# New program is music to ears of deployed Airmen

By Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Music can be a therapeutic friend. It can alleviate pain, improve communication or act as a tool for people to express their feelings.

"Operation On-Air: Requests from the front line," the newest creation from Detachment 9, American Forces Network, officially kicked off in October as a quality of life initiative. It was created solely for deployed Spangdahlem Air Base Airmen to send musical requests and dedications home to their family, friends and co-workers in the Eifel.

"I came up with the idea when one of my brothers was deployed to Iraq and my mom, who lives in Arizona, would regularly call-in during my radio show and make requests to him downrange," said Airman 1st Class Christy Byers, Det. 9 AFN broadcast producer. "Even though my mom and brother could not hear the dedication, it was comforting to them and filled them with a sense of pride."

The initiative evolved from there, and Airman Byers did a "test run" with a single e-mail to a deployed friend downrange.

"Airman Byers e-mailed me her ideas about setting-up a music

and dedication program for deployed Airmen, and I thought it was a great idea," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Theriault, a 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron fire station captain and rescue crew chief who is currently deployed downrange. "I told all the Spangdahlem people I knew in my area of responsibility about 'Operation On-Air,' and the program really took off quickly. Everyone loves the idea."

The request line is open to deployed military members and their families. Whether the request comes from the front line or goes out to the front line, AFN will air the dedication.

"I listened to Christy's show, 'Breakfast with Byers' every morning and as I was walking out the door, I heard my name on the radio and a dedication from my husband who's downrange," said Rosie Gastelum, wife of Master Sgt. Steve Gastelum, 606th Air Control Squadron superintendent of modular systems flight, who is currently deployed downrange. "Everything stopped; my heart started pounding hard, and I began to cry. I could not believe what I was hearing from so far away. I was so happy, and it made my day."

Taking care of each other is one of the wing's mission goals, and Airman Byers believes "Operation On-Air" is fulfilling that request.

The program allows those serving downrange the opportunity to say, "happy birthday," to their child, to tell their spouse they love and miss them, or even let their shop know their morale is still going strong, Airman Byers added.

"I was overjoyed when I heard about this program," Sergeant Gastelum said. "Deployments are never easy, and it's hard being separated from your loved ones. The program helps bridge the gap and provides another venue to stay in touch with our loved ones, besides morale calls and e-mails."

Bridging the gap between the Eifel region and downrange is becoming more and more common and convenient. Requests for musical dedications can be e-mailed to det9.bgor@spangdahlem.af.mil, with the subject line, "Operation On-Air." The e-mail must have the song request, a personal message that will be read on-air and the date and time the dedication should be played.

"My goal for this program is to make it an Air Force-wide campaign," Airman Byers said. "I want everyone in the Eifel to know they are the first to get this type of program. The more requests we get, the better."

## Caution: ensure home fires do not extinguish holiday fun

By Inge Lersche  
52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Prevention Office

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when people face a much greater risk of home fires.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, nearly 600 house fires occur each year during the holiday season, making it the most dangerous time of the year for fires. The 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron's Fire and Emergency Services Flight offers these holiday season fire safety awareness tips to help prevent a fire from occurring at home and to keep families safe:

■ **Christmas trees:** A dried-out evergreen tree is an extremely dangerous fire hazard. Buy a freshly cut tree; beware of any tree with brittle or shedding needles. Stand the tree on a sturdy, non-trip tree stand; keep it away from heat sources, such as radiators, TV sets and fireplaces. Ensure it does not block room exits. Do not put it in front of your balcony doors, because that is your second means of escape. Check the water level daily; discard the tree when the water absorption stops. When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as "fire-retardant."

■ **Holiday lighting:** When decorating with lights, only purchase lights that have a testing laboratory label, such as UL, or German equivalent VDE. Use extension cords sparingly. Check for frayed or damaged cords; replace those cords that show such wear and tear. Do not overload electrical outlets and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep. Indoor electric equipment is not safe outdoors. For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use.

■ **Candles:** Exercise extreme caution when burning candles. Be sure they are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials. Never leave children unattended in a room with lighted candles. Always keep

candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Do not display lighted candles in windows, as curtains are apt to ignite (especially when the window is left open and wind blows a curtain over the candle). Never use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

■ **Holiday parties:** Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and

empty them frequently. After parties, check for discarded cigarette butts inside and under upholstery (couches, love seats, etc.) and in trashcans. A cigarette butt left in these places can smolder and ignite into a fire hours after going to sleep. In the vast

majority of cases, it is not the resulting fire, but rather the initial smoke build-up that kills people as they sleep.

■ **Kitchen fire safety:** Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. The rate of unattended cooking fires spikes during the holidays. Never leave the kitchen when something is cooking on the stove and always turn pot handles in so curious children do not pull the pot down onto themselves. Wear tight-fitting clothes when cooking, as loose clothes can readily be ignited by hot burners. Do not store items on the stovetop, as they can easily catch fire. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition; make certain to turn them off when finished cooking. People who experience a cooking fire should put a lid on it; if possible, turn the stove off; evacuate their homes, and call the base fire department from a neighbor's home.

Home fires and injuries caused by fires are not on anyone's Christmas list. Common sense and a little imagination can make for a holiday celebration that is not only enjoyable and festive, but also safe. For more information, call the Fire Prevention office at 452-5292.



## Team Eifel dodges DUIs, still has major collisions

By David A. Barker  
52nd Security Forces Squadron

Team Eifel members were involved in 19 car accidents and crashes between Nov. 19 and Nov. 26; three were classified as major collisions. There were no incidents of driving-under-the-influence during this period.

The causes of the major vehicle crashes were improper passing, other at fault and improper backing.

The first car crash occurred on B-50. A truck slammed into the side of an airman first class' car while trying to pass. The Airman's vehicle flipped several times and smashed into the perimeter fence line. There were no injuries, but the license plate of the truck was obtained.

The second major accident occurred on L-2 between Orenhofen and the Rathaus.

A civilian's car was broadsided by a local national exiting a farm road, which caused the civilian's car to smash into a road sign. No injuries were reported.

The final car collision occurred on Bitburg Annex near the base exchange. An Army truck backed into a family member's vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Team Eifel members were involved in 16 minor accidents: four each were from driving too fast for conditions, improper backing, inattentive driving, and other at fault.



## Tread lightly in winter with these tire safety tips

By Tech. Sgt. Theresa Lex  
52nd Fighter Wing Safety Office

A task as simple as checking for proper tire pressure can not only save money, but maybe even lives.

Proper tire pressure extends tread life, improves safety and reduces fuel consumption. Most people do not think about tire pressure because they do not notice anything wrong. The car still seems to drive just fine. Similar thinking seems to apply to winter driving. People often think, "I've got four-wheel drive and all-season tires. I'm all set."

People also assume worn tires handle fine. The reality of neglected tires becomes apparent when people are forced to quickly slow down or swerve to avoid an accident. Trying to overtax tires that are not in top form can be disastrous.

The importance of checking tire pressure at least once a month cannot be overstated. The proper tire inflation is found in the door frame or in the owner's manual, not on the tire.

Look for uneven wear patterns, cuts or bulging sidewalls. Finally, check the tread depth, either with an inexpensive gauge or a penny. Stick the penny upside-down in the middle and outside tread grooves. If Lincoln's entire head is visible, then it is time for new tires. When using a gauge, check that the tire tread measures greater than 2/32 of an inch or 5 millimeters (8mm for winter driving).

When filling tires, take care not to over-inflate them either. Over-inflated tires do not allow full tread contact with the road surface. The vehicle rides on the center tread of the tire. In this condition, the vehicle is not as "attached" to the road as it should be. Additionally, the tires will wear out before their intended life span (Some of this information was obtained from www.discounttire.com).





Senior Airman Amaani Lyle

## Top Saber Performer

**Name:** Capt. James Young  
**Unit:** 52nd Medical Operations Squadron  
**Duty title:** Life Skills Flight Commander  
**Hometown:** Houston  
**Years in service:** Six  
**Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success:** Captain Young supervises the Life Skills Support Center, Family Advocacy, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment and Drug Demand Reduction programs, providing prevention, education and treatment services for the entire Eifel Saber populace. During the 52nd FW's recent U.S. Air

Forces in Europe commander-directed "Wingman Day," Captain Young spearheaded the wing's preparations for this vital all-day event aimed at emphasizing mutual support between Airmen in dealing with the stressors of life and the mission.

**Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits:** Captain Young recently enrolled in Air Command and Staff College. He's also pursuing further training in aviation psychology and performance enhancement.

**What's a fun thing you've done lately?** Most of my fun is in spending time with my family. Recently, we drove to Paris and took the children to Euro Disney. I also enjoy watching and playing sports.

**What do you like most about being stationed here?** I've only been here a couple of months, but I'm definitely enjoying the travel opportunities.

**What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base?** As the Life Skills flight commander, I'd like to see more outreach into the units. I know there are still many among us who fear coming to Life Skills but who would greatly benefit from our services. I'd like to work with the commanders and first sergeants to bring our services to the troops where they work.

## Spangdahlem AB congratulates Chiefs-Eagles scholarship winners

### Staff reports

52nd Fighter Wing officials recognized five winners for the Chiefs-Eagles Scholarship, awarded three times a year. Following completion of various sports matches between the wing's chiefs and colonels, the losing team donates \$500 for five \$100 scholarships. The winning team grades the application packages of competitive essays.

**Staff Sgt. Andrew Garza**, 52nd Fighter Wing Judge Advocate Office; **Staff Sgt. Tiera Harris**, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron; **Senior Airman Russell Graves**, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Nathaniel Sugatan**, 52 Medical Support Squadron; and **Senior Airman Joshua Delo**, 703rd Munitions Support Squadron, Volkel Air Base, Netherlands.

### Saber connect



Senior Airman Amaani Lyle

1st Lt. Jason Bartels, right, 81st Fighter Squadron pilot, checks over the day's schedule with Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander. Lieutenant Bartels recently shadowed the commander as part of the *Commander's Mentorship Program* here. A Brenham, Texas, native with three years of Air Force service under his belt, Lieutenant Bartels said he learned that, though he's "just a small part of a big plan," he enjoyed getting an overall picture of how a wing runs. "It really reaffirms confidence in your leadership," Lieutenant Bartels said.

## Eifel Salutes

### 52nd Mission Support Group

With the holidays approaching, the Spangdahlem post office needs more volunteers like **Angie Barber**, who volunteers nearly a full work week every week and helps the postal staff with virtually all aspects of mail processing. Ms. Barber further pushes the envelope by heading up a new training program for volunteers ages 14 and older. **Tech. Sgt. Ryan Helfenstein** and **Janis Wood** are the key players in Combat Care who took more than 100 children of deployed troops through a "junior" personnel deployment facility. Let's cut to the chase and salute **Tech. Sgt. Tony Carrender**, whose stellar processing of applicants for the Palace Chase Program has set the standard for other separations sections in the command. The continuation of Force Shaping has created lots of work for separations, but Sergeant Carrender has made life easier for those he's worked with and customers he's assisted.

### 52nd Maintenance Group

Travelling may be a no-no in basketball, but it's great for **Master Sgt. Jeff Armstrong**, who, with his deployment mobility staff, has created a tracking mechanism, now implemented throughout the group, which ensures Saber maintenance troops are ready to roll. "Crew and improved" developments abound for **Master Sgt. John Murphy**, who coordinated acquisition of new, modernized crew shacks placed in the wing's aircraft shelters.

### 38th Munitions Maintenance Group

**Senior Airman Stacy Fusco** hasn't fussed a bit about filling in as the sole postmaster for Kleine Brogel Air Base during the past year.



She single-handedly performed all postal operations, to include postal finance of \$100,000 and mail delivery to support about 350 military members, family members and retirees. Get a load of the **701st Munitions Support Squadron Load Monitor Section**, who ensure safe and reliable loading of U.S. assets while enhancing Belgium-U.S. relations.

### 52nd Medical Group

No bones about saluting **Staff Sgt. Glenn Dosado**, who did an outstanding job inventorying and restructuring two orthopedic specialty carts -- this provided quick identification of critical supplies. **Dr. (Maj.) Eric Edelenbos** and the **key operating room and family care center staff** had it all sewn up when it came to a stat C-section at 3 a.m. one Saturday morning. **Senior Airman Herodina Lu** keeps Saber teeth "sharp" and is worth her weight in both gold and silver when it comes to scheduling orthodontics appointments. They're the "wind beneath our wings" ... **Tech. Sgts. Paula Ballance** and **Sandra Pocious** and **Staff Sgt. Samantha Dunn** facilitated Wingman Day and made it a success. Sergeant Pocious also keeps the on-the-job training program running smoothly. This is no drill -- **Airman 1st Class Dustin Spaulding**, and **Airmen John Haskill** and **Mark Treat** get a salute for providing needed support for last week's exercise. "Crate job" to the **Zemmer warehouse crew** for processing the 52nd Medical Group cargo shipment. A celestial salute to **Staff Sgt. Celeste Richardson** for last-minute manning assistance to Volkel Air Base, Netherlands.

*Kudos to all; Team Eifel salutes you!*

(Compiled by Senior Airman Amaani Lyle, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)



Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura

## Top Saber Team

**Unit Name:** 52nd Dental Squadron Radiology Element

**A brief description of unit responsibilities:** The team ensures global readiness, promotes oral health and provides outstanding dental care.

**Number of members:** Three: Staff Sgt. Marc Bustria; Staff Sgt. Lakisha Cotner and Capt. Brian Penton

**Team's latest contribution to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success:** This element provided radiology support to 18 dental providers while serving about 14,000 eligible beneficiaries. They exposed and developed 15,000 diagnostic radiographs while producing \$700,000 in care annually, keeping Team Eifel Sabers "dentally" ready and worldwide deployable. They were also part of the wing Pumpkin Patrol, where they handed out 500 toothbrushes to trick-or-treaters during this year's Halloween festivities. **Team's other contributions throughout the year:** During wing deployments, 50 "non-deployable" dental patients received periodic examinations and radiographs to ensure needed work was promptly completed and members were "dentally" fit to fight. This vastly contributed to the 52nd Medical Group "Excellent" rating during the May 2004 Health Services Inspection. The team also augmented the Dental Instrument Processing Center by sterilizing 73,000 instruments annually and maintaining about \$58,000 worth of equipment, ensuring no lost time during patient care.



# Saber pilots, maintainers 'fight' Romanian MiGs at NATO Air Meet

By 1st Lt. Jerry Ferdinand  
22nd Fighter Squadron pilot

More than 85 22nd Fighter Squadron pilots and 22nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit "Stingers" recently returned from participating in NATO Air Meet 2004 and Anatolian Eagle 2004 at Konya Air Base, Turkey.

During NATO Air Meet 2004, the Spangdahlem Air Base Airmen worked side by side with 13 NATO countries, including the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Romania, Hungary, Turkey, Czech Republic and more. Here, the 22nd FS F-16 pilots had the chance to "fight" against Romanian MiG-21 and Hungarian MiG-29 jets.

"What really impressed me was getting to conduct flying operations with the Romanian MiG-21s and Hungarian MiG-29s," said 1st Lt. Chauncy Krol, 22nd FS pilot. "We train against these threats every day, and the NATO Air Meet was the first time I actually got to see them."

The team set the standard for Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses employment and gave the NATO countries an opportunity to see the value of the 22nd FS's Identification Friend or Foe Interrogators, said Capt. Tad Clark, 22nd FS chief of scheduling. The IFF Interrogators enable the pilots to determine beyond visual range if an aircraft is friendly or enemy.

The highlight of the meet was working and learning from NATO partners, said Tech. Sgt. Wesley Ruuti, a crew

**"These exercises give us a better opportunity to break through language barriers and differing tactics now, which enhances the allied force's ability to wage war in the future."**

chief with the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 22nd AMU.

"It provided an awesome opportunity for us to observe how other NATO nations conduct day-to-day maintenance," said Capt. Stan Woronick, 22nd AMU assistant officer in charge.

Captain Clark agreed.

"It is critical that we continue to work with our surrounding NATO countries," he said. "These exercises give us a better opportunity to break through language barriers and differing tactics now, which enhances the allied force's ability to wage war in the future."

After the two-week meet, the team spent one week flying low-level missions and dropping bombs on the local range. The maintainers loaded bombs and ammunition in summer-like conditions while the pilots refreshed their basic surface attack skills.

The team then participated in Anatolian Eagle 2004, an exercise structured to resemble Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. During this exercise, two pilots upgraded to mis-

sion commander status and set the standard for briefing, executing and debriefing a large force employment scenario.

Throughout the two events, teamwork was the key to success.

"The maintainers and pilots had an opportunity to work closely together. The maintainers did a fantastic job with aircraft generation each day, enabling us to not only close out the end of the year flying hour program, but also enabled us as pilots to hone our skills and set the standard for large force employment tactics with the NATO forces," said Captain Clark.

Lieutenant Krol said both teamwork and participation in large force exercises is important.

"It is important that both pilots and maintainers get to participate in large force exercises like these," the pilot said. "First, there is a great deal of tactical learning that goes on in a large force exercise. You get the chance to work with and coordinate many assets while operating in a combat-like environment. Second, the opportunity to work closely with other allied nations is invaluable. You learn what capabilities they bring to the fight and how they like to employ them. As a result, it is much easier and much more effective to conduct combined operations in the future."

(2nd Lt. Shannon Collins, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

## Base sharpens mobility machine during exercise

By Master Sgt. Salvatore Belloise  
52nd Fighter Wing Inspections Office

Spangdahlem Air Base leadership initiated Operation Desert Return during a recent Phase I exercise to evaluate the 52nd Fighter Wing's ability to respond to a short-notice mission tasking.

The inspection focused on three primary functions of a unit's initial response to an operational mission tasking. These functions include being able to generate, deploy and re-generate units for mission employment; processing and deploying expeditionary combat support taskings and Unit Type Codes for expeditionary support operations; and protecting the main operating base team members and resources from intruder and terrorist threats.

Forming the total mobility machine brought base units together. Many units used the exercise to narrow down deficient areas that could hinder or prevent them from successfully relocating vital resources -- such as people, aircraft and equipment downrange.

Units also learned they are dependent on each other for a successful deployment.

To improve before next year's U. S. Air Forces in Europe Operational Readiness Inspection, wing leadership acknowledges the challenges ahead require increased training and refined knowledge of the deployment process.

When tasked in the future, the 52nd FW needs to be constantly ready to project superior combat power. It is essential for Sabers to work smarter and not harder when ensuring Team Eifel has resources ready for deployments, as well as being ready to meet the Spangdahlem AB mission.

### Upcoming taskings as of Nov. 24:

- ♦ **Feb. 7-10**, Local Salty Nation, Phase I and II (Full Spectrum Threat Response)
- ♦ **March 28-31**, Local Salty Nation, Phase I and II (Full Spectrum Threat Response)
- ♦ **Date to be announced**, Operational Readiness Inspection, Phase I

# Wing commander shares history of career, vision of future

By Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

His office is neat and tidy; the walls are speckled with awards and plaques from years of excellence as a combat pilot and a commander. With nearly four months under his belt at Spangdahlem Air Base, he is working feverishly with his senior staff to make his vision of the future a reality.

However, in order to understand the vision, people must first understand a little bit about the man.

"You cut me open, and I bleed blue. I'm currently in my 45th year in the Air Force," said Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, who grew up in an Air Force family, where his father served 33 years. His father started his career as a fighter pilot and retired as a maintainer.

The Air Force traditions and core values run deep in the Goldfein family. The commander joined the Air Force Academy right out of a high school just down the road -- at Kaiserslautern American High School (where he met his wife, Dawn, also a K-Town graduate); however, he looks back at his reason for joining as quite frankly, an ignorant decision.

"Graduating from high school overseas gives me a unique perspective on the outstanding quality of our Department of Defense Dependant's School teachers and the challenges facing our children," he said. "I had no idea where I wanted to go for college or what I wanted to study. The academy was more a choice out of ignorance than a conscious decision about my future."

"About two years into my studies [at the Air Force Academy], I wasn't sure if this was right for me or not, so I actually left the academy," Colonel Goldfein said. As a young man, the commander spent a year away from the academy and traveled around the United States on a bicycle. He rode approximately 5,000 miles with just a sleeping bag, tent and a



2nd Lt. Shannon Collins

**Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, spends time with Eifel Times staff writer, Airman 1st Class Eydie Sakura, in his office. They discussed his vision of the future at Spangdahlem Air Base, as well as talked about his extensive Air Force career.**

plethora of ramen noodles to supplement his \$3-a-day budget.

"I traveled around the back roads of America for that year -- just to check it out," he said. "On the way, I got to meet hundreds of great Americans. I determined that serving them in the Air Force was meaningful work. So I came back."

Coming back meant rejoining the family business and the Air Force way of life.

"When I talk to Airmen about what we do, who we are and what it means to serve, I'm speaking literally about my family business," Colonel Goldfein said. "One of the most meaningful things I get to do is re-enlist someone. I enjoy that more than anything else I do -- it's re-enlisting that person into the family."

The family business of being a Team Eifel Saber means train-

ing to fight, fighting to win and taking care of each other. The commander says being a Saber team member is about being ready to fight -- mirroring the wing goals and mission statement, which are geared toward ensuring the Team Eifel Sabers are ready to answer the call.

"The Saber goals will direct our focus more on the details required to keep us at the 'tip of the spear,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Kelly, 52nd FW command chief. "Colonel Goldfein has laid out the vision in a detailed plan with achievable goals. It's up to the rest of the Saber team -- starting with leaders -- to embrace the vision and execute the plan."

Embracing the commander's vision means embracing the Air Force core values, to ensure Team Eifel is always prepared to project superior combat power.

Colonel Goldfein's philosophy regarding his responsibility to Team Eifel as the wing commander comes from the advice of his older brother, a major general select, who recently began his assignment as the commander of the Air Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. He said a good leader provides vision and then creates an environment to achieve that vision.

"We must never lose sight that our focus as a wing is to be constantly ready to project combat power. It's who we are as Sabers," Colonel Goldfein said. "It's what our primary focus is going to be for the next couple of years. Preparing to fight, fighting to win and taking care of each other. Right now, I'm the luckiest guy on the face of the earth to be given the opportunity to lead this awesome Saber team."

Colonel Goldfein came to Spangdahlem AB from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, where he served as the 366th Operations Group commander. He authored a book on command called, "Sharing Success, Owning Failure," which is used Air Force-wide as squadron commander school core reading. His younger brother is a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve and flies F-16s at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.



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1st Lt. Mike Cumberworth.....PA deputy  
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The Direct Line program is a  
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Direct Lines of general interest  
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Submit your Direct Line via:

■ DirectLine@spangdahlem.  
af.mil

■ Mailed to 52nd FW/PA,  
Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE  
09126

■ To PA in building 23.

■ Concerns may also be sent  
via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are  
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Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more  
information.



Col. Dave Goldfein

## November Sortie Scoreboard

Aircraft	Goal	Flown	Delta
22FS	339	191	-117
23FS	284	172	-121
81FS	410	366	-26

\*Delta is contract vs. sorties flown to date.

Through Nov. 29

Courtesy of the  
52nd Operations Support Squadron  
Plans and Scheduling Section

# Viewpoint

Dec. 3, 2004

Page 5

## Good advice

## MDSS commander shares life tips for Airmen

By Lt. Col. Mark Tesmer

52nd Medical Support Squadron commander

All of us have known someone who got into  
some type of trouble.

Maybe they received a letter of reprimand, or  
an Article 15 and lost a stripe, or even ended up  
in jail. Oftentimes, they were considered a “good  
troop” by their supervisors and well liked by  
their co-workers. As commanders faced with  
administering a disciplinary action to one of our  
“shining stars,” we’re often left wondering what  
went wrong.

When bad things happen to good Airmen, the  
root of their predicament is nearly always the  
same. With very few exceptions, most of these  
unfortunate instances involve alcohol, poor per-  
sonal financial management or simply a poor  
choice of friends. Additionally, a bad situation is  
often made worse when the individual panics  
and lies in a misguided effort to cover up what  
might have been a relatively minor infraction.

All this led me to formulate what I call my  
four tips for a successful career. I share them  
often with the people in my command. While  
they might appear obvious at first glance, a  
quick look at the security forces blotter suggests  
that occasionally reminding ourselves of the  
obvious isn’t such a bad idea.

■ **First, don’t get drunk.** My experience has  
been that drunk people do some really stupid  
things. Excessive drinking contributes to increased  
motor vehicle accidents, violent crime, sexual  
assault, suicide and work-related problems.

This casual observation of mine has been sub-  
stantiated by numerous studies conducted on col-  
lege campuses across the nation. For instance, a  
2001 U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services study came to the startling conclusion  
that binge drinking (having at least five drinks in  
a row) was most prevalent among young adults  
between the ages of 18 and 25 with the peak rate

“ *When bad things happen  
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management, or simply a poor  
choice of friends.* ”

occurring at age 21. In fact, 48.2 percent of 21-  
year-olds binge drink. My guess is that many of  
these drunk 21-year-olds do a lot of stupid things  
that they normally wouldn’t do while sober.

I read recently about a man in North Dakota  
who died when his friend shot him. They were  
attempting to shoot beer cans off each other’s  
heads with a rifle. Not surprisingly, both of the  
men were 21 and drunk. Lesson learned: If you  
drink, don’t get drunk.

■ **Second, live within your means.** Chances  
are pretty good that if I can’t afford a 394-horse-  
power, BMW Z8, you can’t afford a 394-horse-  
power, BMW Z8. Expensive cars, televisions  
and other electronic devices have wrought havoc  
and destruction upon many a poor Airman’s  
career.

The culture we live in bombards us daily with  
the false message that it’s okay to buy more  
things than we have money to pay for. The temp-  
tation is almost overwhelming to give into the  
desire for instant gratification (which results in  
long term debt). Banks we’ve never heard of  
send us applications for loans and credit cards  
with promises of long-term repayment at almost  
too-good-to-be-true interest rates.

Even gambling is more convenient (and more  
dangerous) than ever before with new slot  
machines that accept your low-interest credit

card for instant payment. Just keep in mind that  
the people who devise these schemes do not  
have your best interests in mind. They’re out to  
make a buck at your expense. So remember what  
our mothers always told us: “If something  
sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

■ **Third, don’t hang out with idiots.** Idiots  
do some really stupid things -- especially when  
they’re drunk. I define idiots as that very small  
percentage of the active duty population who  
somehow slipped passed the recruiter despite  
having a prior police record for narcotics traf-  
ficking and assault with a deadly weapon. So  
choose your friends carefully. These people are  
on their way out of the Air Force. Don’t allow  
them to take you with them.

■ **Finally and perhaps most importantly,  
don’t lie -- even a little.** Mark Twain said,  
“When in doubt, tell the truth.” Great advice, but  
many people often do just the opposite. Why?  
Because it’s tough to admit you messed up.  
Believe me, I know. Fortunately, I’m not alone.  
Everyone makes mistakes.

Anyone that tells you otherwise is lying. I  
don’t know who Henry C. Link is, but he said at  
least one smart thing: “While one person hesi-  
tates because he feels inferior, another is busy  
making mistakes and becoming superior.” In  
other words, I’m a better Airman today because  
along the way, I’ve made some really stupid mis-  
takes.

Making a mistake is one thing. However,  
lying to cover it up is an entirely different mat-  
ter. Bottom line: Next time you do something  
stupid and are in doubt about what to do; tell the  
truth, take your punishment and most important-  
ly, learn from your mistake.

When you hear about fellow Airmen who get  
themselves into a bad situation, ask yourself if  
their dilemma might be different had they fol-  
lowed these four simple tips for a successful  
career.

## Responsibility: 52nd MOS commander says a little kindness, effort goes a long way

By Maj. Jacqueline Mongeon

52nd Maintenance Operations Squadron commander

We all have different levels of responsibil-  
ity and each of them are very important.

Some are due to a position at work;  
others are due to an informal position  
held in a volunteer job or at home. Our  
day-to-day jobs easily become routine,  
and we forget how important the out-  
come of our job is to another person.

As commanders or supervisors, our  
responsibility is to our people and the  
mission -- an awesome responsibility.  
We can never forget the impact of our  
decisions on each individual. Our Airmen’s train-  
ing, mentoring and concern for their off-duty  
activities lies in our hands.

Volunteer positions are no different. The vol-  
unteers at the post office do an incredible job to

lessen the burden on our awesome post office  
staff to ensure we get our bills on time, bring us  
important news from our families and home-  
towns and increase our morale with care  
packages. The community members  
who volunteer at our schools ensure  
children receive one-on-one care and  
attention to foster a good learning envi-  
ronment. They also ensure our children  
get the opportunity to participate in dif-  
ferent sports and activities that will  
shape their future.

Our responsibilities don’t end at the  
close of business each day. They contin-  
ue at home or have been the primary concern  
for our stay-at-home parents and family mem-  
bers. Keeping a clean house ensures safety is  
paramount by not leaving toys on the stairs or in  
the hallway to become tripping hazards. We can  
ensure our children learn their own responsibili-

ties by making sure their homework is complet-  
ed on time. People should be mindful of main-  
taining the appearance of their off-base homes to  
ensure community standards are being upheld  
and that we’re being good neighbors in our host  
nation.

It’s so important that we give our best effort  
in everything we do. From the Airman whose  
promotion could be riding on getting his or her  
decoration updated in the personnel system, to  
the deployed member who needed the morale  
boost by receiving a care package from his fami-  
ly, to the customer whose bad day was turned  
around because someone at the customer service  
window said with a smile, “Can I help you  
today,” it’s clear that each wing member is part  
of a bigger picture and vital to the mission.

We all have responsibilities, but nothing less  
than the Saber Standard will do for this wing.

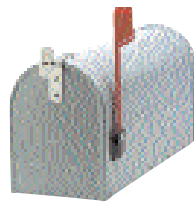






## Community Mailbox

Submit "Community Mailbox" advertisements 10 days before the desired publication date to [publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil).



### Breakfast with Santa

Enjoy pancakes, bacon and fruit with Santa and the 52nd Mission Support Squadron and 52nd Fighter Wing Spouses' Group Saturday from 9-11 a.m. in the Spangdahlem AB chapel. There will be arts and crafts, as well as time to take photos with Santa. Parents should bring a wrapped book for their child to the 52nd MSS orderly room, building 151. For details, call Brigitte Gurwell at 452-6148.

### PTSA meetings

The Spangdahlem Elementary School Parent, Teacher, Student Association holds its general membership meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. in the SES multi-purpose room. Enjoy a performance by the third and fourth grade chorus. For more information, call Barbara Triplett at 452-6881 or e-mail her at [barbara.triplett@eu.dodea.edu](mailto:barbara.triplett@eu.dodea.edu).

### Facilities working group

A facilities working group meeting takes place Monday at 11 a.m. in the civil engineer conference room, building 119. Facility issues will be decided and forwarded to the facilities board for approval. All squadron commanders are encouraged to attend. For details, call Capt. Kyle Brown at 452-6843.

### Tier II meeting

The Tier II meeting takes place Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Brick House. Tier II is for ranks E-5 to E-6. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Theresa Lex at 452-7233 or Staff Sgt. Francisco Araujo at 452-6514.

### SSEMC Christmas party

The Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club holds its Christmas party Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. at Zum Weibenstein in Binsfeld. The party is free for members and costs \$10 for guests. For more information, call Alison Carnahan at 06565-956809.

### BHS service project

The Bitburg High School student council sponsors a service project to aid wounded servicemembers hospitalized at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. The student council requests donations for



Gary Sakura

### Giant gingerbread

Col. Dave Goldfein, 52nd Fighter Wing commander (center), cuts a piece of the world's largest gingerbread man, or "Christmas Man," at the Wittlich Christmas Market Saturday. (Left to right) Hans Josef Flesch, maker of the giant pastry; Juergen Bungert, owner of a local catering company; and Ralf Bussmer, mayor of Wittlich and honorary 52nd Communication Squadron commander, look on after the "Christmas Man" was measured for the Guinness Book of World Records. Money raised benefits "Haus St. Anton," an orphanage and home for young mothers and small children.

the following items: toiletries, sweat suits, socks, duffle bags and small suitcases. Monetary donations are also accepted for the purchase of supplies. The items collected and purchased will be sent to LRMC. Drop off donations by Dec. 10 at BHS, room 113. For more information, call Mrs. McCamish at 452-9337.

### EMS Christmas party

The 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron holds its Christmas party Dec. 12 from 2-5 p.m. at building 101, the aircraft washrack. Bring a pre-wrapped \$5-\$10 gift to the first sergeants office by Dec. 10 so children can receive a gift. For more information, call Master Sgt. John Buskey at 452-7963.

### Tree sale

Boy Scout troop 165 is selling Christmas trees now through Dec. 24 in the Spangdahlem AB commissary parking lot each weekend from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and weeknights from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For details, call Master Sgt. Dan DeMers at

452-6016 or Tammy Rhein at 06575-901513.

### Freecycle

Wing members have a new way to recycle by posting or claiming items on the local "Freecycling" Web site. Here, people can reduce the amount of waste going into landfills or give new life to used items. Wing members can join the Freecycling group to obtain or donate free items. To join, visit [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/spangbitfreecycle](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/spangbitfreecycle) from a home computer.

### Holiday dorm baskets

The Officers and Civilians Spouses Club needs volunteers and baked goods for the holiday dorm baskets. The OCSC has a drop-off point at Peter's restaurant on Spangdahlem AB Dec. 14 from 9-11 a.m. Now is the time to bake, donate and assemble goods such as cookies, bars and muffins, for more than 750 Airmen living in the dorms. For details, call Amy Garrison at 0160-9800-9234.

## Chapel Services

### MOPS news

The Mothers of Pre-Schoolers need people to help with their childrens' programs for a few hours each month. The time volunteered involves two Mondays a month to help watch the children. For more information, call Michelle Cargile at 06565-955852 or Debra Kirchmeier at 02692-932340, or e-mail them at [spangmops@yahoo.com](mailto:spangmops@yahoo.com).



### Catholic Penance Services

Advent Penance Services for the Catholic community take place Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. in the Spangdahlem AB Chapel and Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. For details, call the base chapel at 452-6711/6281.

### Gospel Ambassadors performances

The wing's Gospel Ambassadors perform Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Christmas market at the Trier Mutterhaus hospital and holds a benefit concert Dec. 12 at 4:30 p.m. at the Rittersdorf Catholic church. For details, call the base chapel at 452-671/6281.

## Club Eifel Happenings

The following events take place in Club Eifel. Call 452-6090 for more information.

### Congratulations ...

**1st Lt. David Jones** won \$600 at the weekly Club Eifel drawing; however **Senior Airman Nicholas Bastien** missed out on \$150. Members must be present to win cash prizes. Names are announced in the ballroom, Stripes lounge and Expeditionary Cockpit Lounge.

### Today

☐ **Stripes lounge:** Club members enjoy a free burger burn from 5-7 p.m. A DJ plays music from 9-11 p.m.

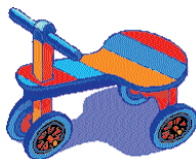
**ECL:** Commander's social begins at 5 p.m.

### Thursday

☐ Enjoy slow-cooked roast of prime rib. Medium cut costs \$9.95 for members and \$12.95 for nonmembers, and a large cut costs \$12.95 for members and \$15.95 for nonmembers.

### Lunch buffets

☐ **Monday,** Country buffet; **Tuesday,** Mexican buffet; **Wednesday,** Italian buffet; **Thursday,** Tri-Continent buffet; **Friday,** no lunch buffet throughout December



## Der Markt

### Free classifieds policy and submission deadlines

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, at least **10 days before the desired date of publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to [publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil](mailto:publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil) or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.



## Movies

The following movie listings are for today through Dec. 9. Times and movies are subject to change. For the most current information, call 06565-61-9441 or 452-9441. Movie synopses are available at [www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp](http://www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp).

### Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

*Mr. 3000 (PG-13, 7 p.m.)*

An aging baseball star who goes by the nickname, "Mr. 3000," finds out many years after his retirement that he did not quite reach 3,000 hits. Now at age 47, he is back to try and reach that goal.

*Resident Evil: Apocalypse (R, 10 p.m.)*

After the re-opening of the Hive and the outbreak of the deadly T-Virus, the infamous Umbrella Corporation quarantines the whole of Raccoon City, disabling anyone at all from leaving in case of possible infection with the outside world.

Saturday

*Surviving Christmas (PG-13, 7 p.m.)*

Drew Latham is an executive leading an empty, shallow life with only wealth on his side. Facing another lonely Christmas ahead, he revisits his childhood home to relive holiday memories, but finds the house inhabited by another family.

*The Forgotten (PG-13, 10 p.m.)*

A grieving mother struggles to cope with the loss of her nine-year-old son. She is stunned when her psychiatrist and her husband tell her that she has created eight years of memories of a son she never had.

Sunday

*Surviving Christmas (4 p.m.)*

*The Forgotten (7 p.m.)*

Monday

*Mr. 3000 (7 p.m.)*

Tuesday

*Surviving Christmas (7 p.m.)*

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

### Bitburg Castle

Today

*Friday Night Lights (PG-13, 7 p.m.)*

This is a movie based on H.G. Bissinger's book, which profiles the economically depressed town of Odessa, Texas, and its heroic high school football team, the Permian High Panthers.

*Vanity Fair (PG-13, 9:30 p.m.)*

Growing up poor in London, Becky Sharp defies her poverty-stricken background and ascends the social ladder alongside her best friend, Amelia.

Saturday

*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (PG, 4 p.m.)*

After New York City receives a series of attacks from giant flying robots, a reporter teams up with a pilot in search of their origin, as well as the reason for the disappearances of famous scientists around the world.

*Friday Night Lights (7 p.m.)*

Sunday

*Wimbledon (PG-13, 4 p.m.)*

An aging male tennis star has one last shot, and two weeks, to win the greatest tennis tournament and the heart of an up-and-coming women's tennis star.

*Vanity Fair (7 p.m.)*

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (7 p.m.)*

Thursday

*Wimbledon (7 p.m.)*

# Christmas markets spring to life throughout Germany

Story and photo by Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs Office

The annual Weihnachtsmaerkte, or Christmas markets, spring up in many towns throughout Germany in December.

Nearly every German mid-sized town has its own unique Christmas market, offering the aromas of fresh fir, Christmas baked goods, waffles, candies and sweet breads; putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Vendors and craftsmen set up their goods in little wooden huts or stands, usually decorated with fir branches and Christmas finery. Most of the merchandise sold at the Weihnachtsmarkt is characteristic of the season, and children's eyes light up with joy at the sight of the many treasures piled high in the booths.

There is a variety of decorative Christmas tree ornaments, garlands and sweets. Gluehwein, a traditional hot spiced wine, is available at most markets.

Some Christmas markets date back six centuries. Nuernberg has the most famous Christkindelmarkt, going back to the 1690s. Its origin is thought to have been the Nikolausdult, a market



**Local Eifel residents stroll past one of the many vendors at the Dudeldorf Christmas Market Nov. 27. Throughout the month of December, many cities and villages will hold their own Weihnachtsmaerkte. Check out future *Eifel Times* for more listings.**

mentioned as early as 1310 and held near Nuernberg's St. Michael's Church.

Many local area large and small towns offer unique markets.

Here is a list of Weihnachtsmaerkte open throughout the Christmas season. Most markets are usually open at 10 a.m. and close about 6 or 7 p.m.

- ♦ Schloss Malberg castle, **Saturday** and **Sunday**
- ♦ Zeltingen, **Saturday** and **Sunday**
- ♦ Schloss Foehren, **Dec. 10** and **Dec. 12**
- ♦ Andernach, **now** through **Dec. 12**

♦ Wittlich, **now** through **Dec. 19**, from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

♦ Cochem, **now** through **Dec. 19**

♦ Kaiserslautern, **now** through **Dec. 22**

♦ Heidelberg, **now** through **Dec. 22**

♦ Bernkastel, **now** through **Dec. 22**

♦ Speyer, **now** through **Dec. 22**

♦ Wuerzburg, **now** through **Dec. 23**

♦ Wiesbaden, **now** through **Dec. 23**

♦ Bitburg, **now** through **Dec. 24** at 1 p.m.; the market

is closed each Monday and Tuesday.

♦ Nuernberg, **now** through **Dec. 24**

♦ Monreal, **Dec. 11-12**

♦ Gerolstein, **Dec. 11** from 11 to 8 p.m., and **Dec. 12** from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

♦ Speicher museum, (Christmas exhibition with demonstrations), **Dec. 12** from 2-6 p.m.

♦ The smallest market is close to the base in Gransdorf and takes place **Dec. 12** from 1 to 6 p.m. at the "Hof-Eulendorf" estate.

♦ Schloss Wachendorf castle, **Dec. 19**

Times for markets vary, but most markets usually run from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## Free concert

Enjoy a free concert by the Sixth Fleet Band from Naples, Italy, Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Spangdahlem village community hall. The mayor of Spangdahlem, Klaus Rodens, invites all base members to attend the performance.

Enjoy a unique ballet performance with music by Queen and Mozart. The "Ballet for Life" takes place **today** and **Saturday** at 8 p.m. at the Coque cultural center in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. For tickets, call the hotline at 0651-7199-996, or the Coque center at 00352-4360-60222. A limited number of tickets are available at the door, which opens around 6-6:30 p.m.



Iris Reiff

### Light the way

The four Sundays of Advent mark the beginning of the Christmas celebration, and with it the beginning of the church year. Advent, which has existed in the Western church since the sixth century, was originally a time for fasting. The advent wreath has been popular in northern Germany since soon after World War I. Since the 1930s, it has been popular throughout the German-speaking parts of Europe. The wreath is made of fir branches with four candles, one of which is lighted each Advent Sunday until all four are burning together.

## Sankt Nikolaus visits children at their homes

By Iris Reiff  
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Monday is Sankt Nikolaus Day, a German Christmas tradition where children receive small gifts in the shoes they have left outside overnight.

Annually, Dec. 6 is set aside to commemorate Bishop Nicholas of Myra, who lived in the fourth century. According to legend, the bishop gave gifts to the three daughters of an impoverished nobleman. Another version of the legend says the bishop saved three scholars from the clutches of a cannibal.

During the Middle Ages, the day commemorating Nikolaus was an occasion for charitable giving, for rewarding students and giving children the opportunity to go out and collect gifts.

In recent times, the traditional Sankt Nikolaus, or the German Santa Claus, visits children Dec. 5, the night before Sankt Nikolaus Day. He presents gifts and discusses the good and bad things the children did throughout the year.

He also asks them to recite a poem or sing a Christmas song. The gifts are provided beforehand by the parents, along with a list, telling Sankt Nikolaus about things the parents want him to mention.

Sometimes, Hans Muff, dressed in black and rattling a chain, accompanies Sankt Nikolaus. He usually carries a bag with an artificial limb sticking out to convince children he has already taken a bad child with him.

If the children are afraid of the frightening character Hans Muff, he may wait outside. Hans Muff also helps Sankt Nikolaus present goodies to the children. If Sankt Nikolaus does not charge a fee for his visit, it is customary to tip him. In some towns, Sankt Nikolaus either arrives by sled (if it snows) or by coach.



# Sparks fly for Spang firefighters in Las Vegas World Challenge XIII



Karen Abeyasekere

Airman 1st Class Joe Almony, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, right, pulls up a 45-pound hose as he competes against another firefighter in the World Challenge XIII -- Firefighter Combat Challenge in Las Vegas.

2nd Lt. Shannon Collins

52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

A five-man 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services team made the top 32 teams with a best time of 1:20:23 at the World Challenge XIII -- Firefighter Combat Challenge in Las Vegas recently.

Team coach Staff Sgt. Corey McGee said the team performed well for it being our first competition together.

“We didn’t let the powerhouse teams intimidate us. We lost by four seconds to Team Travis [from Travis Air Force Base, Calif.], who broke the world record. Deployments permitting, we should do very well next year,” said the 52nd CES training officer and team captain.

The Spangdahlem Air Base team made the top 32 teams out of 125 teams, out of about 1,000 of the world’s best firefighters. The majority of the competitors were civilian firefighters. There were 14 Department of Defense teams, including three

teams from U.S. Air Forces in Europe, represented by Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England; Spangdahlem Air Base; and two firefighters from Rhein-Main AB. The Spangdahlem AB team won the USAFE-level competition in September.

One of the Spangdahlem Sabers made it to the individual finals.

“It was exciting to run in the finals with others who have been doing this for years,” said Airman 1st Class Joe Almony, 52nd CES firefighter, who placed 58th with a time of 1:42:26. “I’m looking forward to performing better in the next couple of years.”

Coach Sergeant McGee said Airman Almony has the talent to go all the way next year.

“He has the potential to be one of the world’s fastest firefighters if he continues to train hard and stay dedicated,” the coach said.

The competition is known as “the toughest two minutes in sports.”

Pairs of firefighters do their best to outrun each other on the gruelling course, which simulates the physical demands of real-world situations.

The course starts with the firefighters running up five flights of stairs with a 45-pound hose over their shoulder, dropping it at the top and reaching over to haul another 50-pound “donut” hose up the five flights of stairs.

After charging back down the steps, touching each one on the way down, the firefighters must then leap onto the Keiser sled and knock it backward five feet with a nine-pound mallet.

The firefighters then zigzag 140 feet between simulated hydrants and drag a fully pressurized hose more than 75 feet to a simulated doorway before switching it on and hitting a target.

As a finale, the firefighters drag a life-sized 175-pound mannequin 100 feet backward across the finish line -- all within the goal time of two minutes.

Just to make it even tougher, the firefighters have to do it all while wearing 50 pounds of gear.

The intense training for competitions like this one help the Airmen with real-world job responsibilities.

“Our job is to get people out of intense situations; this training ensures that we are fit enough physically and mentally to get them out,” said Sergeant McGee. “I’ve played every sport possible, but this one is 10 times as hard as anything I’ve ever done. It takes years of practice and hard training to be the best at this. We’re just starting, and we can only get better.” (Karen Abeyasekere, 100th Air Refueling Wing Public Affairs, contributed to this story.)

## Sports Briefs

Tannenbaum ski club

The Tannenbaum Ski Club meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Landstuhl Combined Club. Sign up for the following upcoming trips: Club Med Val d’Isere, Dec. 12-19; Siegi Tours at St. Veit #1, Dec. 19-25; St. Veit #2, Jan. 30 to Feb. 5; Dolomites, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2; Chamonix, Zell Am See, or Crans Montana, Jan. 14-17; Gstaad, Feb. 4-6; Four Valleys, Portes de Soleil, Bad Gastein, Feb 18-21. Visit [www.TannenbaumSkiClub.com](http://www.TannenbaumSkiClub.com) for more information.

HAWC happenings

The following events take place at the health and wellness center in building 130. Call 452-6995 for more information.

**Monday:** Running shoe class, noon

**Tuesday:** Fitness improvement program, 8 a.m.; body composition improvement program 1, 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesday:** Healthy living workshop, 9 a.m.; BCIP 2, 1 p.m.

**Friday:** Physical trainer leader class, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fitness center closures

All day today, Saturday and for a half day Sunday the Spangdahlem AB fitness center gymnasium floor will be closed for the holiday bazaar held there. The gymnasium floor will be closed for Operation Season’s Greetings Dec. 10-12. Locker rooms will be closed Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to Dec. 12 at noon. The front door of the fitness center will be locked Dec. 11, and entry will only be available through the cardio room doors. Call Sharon Grays at 452-6251 for more information.

Combat Cheer basketball

Dunk the blues with a game of basketball at the Combat Cheer Basketball Games. Play a five-on-five game Saturday at 9 a.m. in the Skelton Memorial Fitness Center. Play is open to those who are at least 18-years-old and not in school -- primarily unaccompanied Airmen who can earn fully-validated MERGE cards. There will be both male and female categories. For more details, call Staff Sgts. Brian Sneed and Foster Gilbert or Mark Warner at 452-6634.

## Scoreboard

Intramural bowling

The following is a list of the latest standings for bowling through week nine of 32, ending Nov. 17

Team	Points won	Points lost
Det. 17	52	20
52 FW/JAG	45	27
52 MDG	44	28
52 EMS	42	30
52 CMS	40	32
52 MOS	38	34
52 CES A	36	36
52 LRS	36	36
52 SFS	36	36
52 CS A	34	38
52 CES B	32	40
52 OSS	30	42
702 MUNS B	30	42
606 ACS	28	44
702 MUNS A	27	45
52 CS B	26	46

Intramural racquetball

The following is a list of the latest racquetball standings as of Nov. 30.

52 EMS defeated 52 MOS 3-0		
52 MDG defeated 52 LRS 2-1		
52 CS defeated 52 CES (walkover)		
Team	Wins	Losses
52 CS	2	0
52 LRS	1	1
52 MDG	1	1
52 EMS	1	1
52 MOS/MXG	1	1
52 CES	0	2

Varsity basketball

The following are the respective results of the men’s and women’s varsity basketball games held here Nov. 20.

Kaiserslautern defeated Spangdahlem 77-71
Kaiserslautern defeated Spangdahlem 48-40

## Baron basketball

The Bitburg Middle School Barons basketball season starts today. The Barons take on the Brigands from Brussels in a non-conference match-up. Returning for the Barons are seniors Co-Captain Trey Wilson, Ryan Dumas, Mike Romero, Erik Martz and Brandon Morales. The junior corps is headed by Co-Captain Perry Hardy, Alquel Hodges, Charles Whately, Alex Hodges and Jesse Gutierrez. Returning for his second year is sophomore Nick Brown. Josh Collett and Erett Grubbs will swing for junior varsity and varsity. The only freshman on the varsity squad this year is Tyson King. Quickness and shooting will be the foundations that will lead the Barons in pursuit of another divisional championship.

Keep up with Barons Basketball, via the Web at [www.eteamz.active.com/BitburgBasketball/](http://www.eteamz.active.com/BitburgBasketball/). The site has game schedules, stats and game highlights.

## Today’s schedule

Girl’s varsity game -- 4 p.m.

Halftime show -- BMS Tai Chi class

Boys Varsity Game -- 5:30 p.m.

Halftime show -- Mr. Goetz’s “Little Dragons”  
Tae-Kwon-Do school